

# Gypsy Cob Society of America, Inc.



Volume 1 Number One

WELCOME

November 2003

## WELCOME TO OUR FIRST GCSA NEWSLETTER

We would like to welcome you to our first GCSA newsletter. We welcome comments, letters to the editor, and guest articles.

Send in your questions about Gypsy Cobs or general horse questions and we will try to get the best information possible for your answers.

We plan to include articles from trainers, veterinarians, equine specialists and artists.

Information will include articles on how to import horses and include interesting stories from folks who have gone through the import process.

Articles from across the ocean from our sister registry in England The Gypsy Cob Society, Ltd. will help you to learn more about the Gypsies and their country and how things are done across the pond.

We hope you enjoy this first newsletter and will look forward to receiving it in the future.

## HISTORY OF THE GYPSY COB SOCIETY OF AMERICA, INC.

BY JAN EASTER

My sister Priscilla Cox (who was living in England at the time), our friend Carol Smettem and I formed the Gypsy Vanner Society Ltd. in England to protect the Gypsy Cob bloodlines that were being lost to color breeds. The gypsies were registering their horses anywhere they could to start obtaining their passports that the government were demanding. We used the name Gypsy Vanner Society, Ltd., when we formed the English registry as we believed at that time that it was the name that was commonly used internationally.

When we heard about the meeting to combine the forces of the interested American parties of the Gypsy Cob, we decided it was important that we attend the meeting in Ohio, April 2003. After attending the meeting in Ohio and listening to the Gypsy's response to the name Vanner, we realized we'd made a mistake with the name of the registry. After much discussion with Gypsies in England, during which they too

expressed the desire for these horses to be called Gypsy Cobs as they are known in England, we immediately contacted the UK government officials to change the name from the Gypsy Vanner Society, Ltd. to the Gypsy Cob Society, Ltd.

It was at the meeting in Ohio we met Jo Griffin, Cheryl Lang and Debbie Prichard. The meeting did not seem to be producing the results that in our opinion was best for the Gypsy Cob. So after much heartfelt discussion with Jo, Cheryl and Debbie we founded the Gypsy Cob Society of America, Inc. in May 2003. We filed with the IRS and were granted permission to be a non-profit, charitable organization benefiting the breed The Gypsy Cob. We consider



our goals to be: education of the public of this breed, maintenance of pedigrees, breeding records and DNA structures that make this breed unique to any other breed in the world, a sacred trust.

The sister registry we formed in England, The Gypsy Cob Society, Ltd. is registering and protecting the bloodlines directly in England and helping to educate the gypsy community on the need to protect their bloodlines as well as helping the gypsies who cannot read or write to fill out the government required forms for their passports.

The Gypsy Cob Society of America, Inc. Board of Priscilla, Jo, Debbie Cheryl and I have done our best to lay a firm foundation for the Gypsy Cob breed that will be a legacy for years to come.

## MEET THE BOARD

The Board of Directors who formed the Gypsy Cob Society of America, Inc. have worked extremely hard to bring you a socially conscious registry that is here strictly to protect the Gypsy Cob. The five members of the Board will sit for the first three years. This is to help protect the ideals they have put in place and get the breed on a strong footing. In 2007 the Board will be elected by the members in regional elections staggered over 3 years, so that all areas of the country will have representation on the Board and can help maintain the momentum the standing Board has achieved. So let us introduce you to your founding Board.

### Jan Easter, President



I have owned horses all my life. My first horse to own on my own was a QH son of Poco Bueno. I managed my first horse show 24 years ago.

Learning conformation and individual breed requirements became of major importance to me as I had to hire the judges and needed to recognize the ones that did their job properly and were consistent to their type.

I went to work for my first horse registry in the 80's and helped the miniature industry combine multiple smaller registries into one as well as starting their show circuit and had many round table discussions about setting up show rules. In the 90's I worked for another registry helping re-vamp their show rules and bring them to publication, as well as was head of promotions for three different breeds that were maintained under one registry.

This gave me a wonderful background to help develop the Gypsy Cob Society.

I am also an avid equine artist and have painted everything from miniature paintings, 75 foot equine murals to an interior wall draft horse mural in an embryo surgery theater.

I hope to educate the United States about this wonderful, enchanting breed

and give them a Society to preserve their heritage for generations to come.



Priscilla Cox, Vice-President

Horses have been a passion for me since birth. I begged and begged my parents for a horse and when I got my horse, my next campaign was for english riding lessons from an Austrian riding instructor. The next venue of course, was showing. In high school I got my first young horse to train and knew that horses and I would have a lifelong partnership.

I have shown horses all my life and taken them to National level competition. Conformation and temperament have always been paramount in my breeding program. The joy of showing a horse that loves to show and makes people stand up and take notice is a real ultimate thrill to me. Foaling season is my favorite time of year, though "I love those babies!"

In 1995 I moved to England and soon after imported my American Miniatures and started the first AMHA affiliated Club in the country. It was through the miniatures that I met Carol Smettem-Minson. She was just getting into American Miniatures and had my dream horse the Gypsy Cob. We hit it off as fast friends and started the alliance that would bring the Gypsy Cob to the fore-front of my horse passion. Because of the new EU law for horses to have passports we realized the urgency to form a registry to keep the heritage of the Gypsy Cob from being lost forever in the color registries. With my experience in government documentation and regulation I developed the required documents and stud book database and helped form the Gypsy Cob Society, Ltd. with Carol Smettem and Jan Easter.



Treasurer - Debbie Prichard

Deborah Heron

Prichard began her equestrian life at five years of age. By seven she was traveling coast to coast and border to border showing Ponies of America. Among many honors, she also trained and

showed two POA mares who became the first and second west coast bred supreme champions. She transitioned to the American Paint Horse Association at age 13 and continued earning multiple top honors and all-around awards at the state and national level. Eventually horses had to take a backseat to her studies while she received her Doctorate of Veterinary Medicine in 1992. Since that time she showed various paint and quarter horses in local open shows and in dressage shows earning top scores, high point awards and traveling trophies. Currently she is practicing in California, Texas and Oklahoma and is one of the few to complete a residency in small animal emergency medicine. She is also training her paint mare for all-around and dressage competition. Her husband Marc's love of the draft breeds has expanded her equine interests to the Gypsy Cobs. Together they wish to help establish a foundation that will allow this wonderful breed to grow.



Jo Griffin – Secretary  
Born and raised in Connecticut. I did not simply grow up a girl that loved horses, as my Grandmother will tell you, as soon as I

could walk and knew how to push the screen door, I would be found in the barn with the draft horses, the percheron teams that our landlord loved and used on his dairy farm. My mom and dad rented an apartment on the dairy farm for the first few years of my life. The horses and all the other animals at the farm, cats, geese, ducks, dogs, and I were great friends and that was where I wanted to be. Not much changes in a few decades! I rode every chance I could while growing up, working at barns for privileges. My first horse was a Christmas gift from my parents when I was a young girl and he was a great teacher! Multiple disciplines and a fabulous jumper. He was an old style Morgan Bay with a blaze.

Real life takes over and a family and children raised and off on their own. My husband decided he would like to ride with me. I first saw the Gypsy Horses at Equine Affaire in 1998 when looking for a horse for my beginner husband that could carry a big man with ease. A

month later we traveled to Florida and listened to the explanation of "the breed" at both of the farms in Ocala. When I left Florida on that visit I felt that there was far too much that did not make sense in what I had just heard and the answers I was given when asking questions directly about the breed itself. My first question was, "How do you go to another country, buy horses, bring them home and tell me that you have the "only" horses of this breed?" In my "animal lover / breeder / supporter" mind, none of this made any sense to me. Common sense prevailed. The breed must exist in Europe.

As a breeder of everything from Rabbits to Chickens to Cocker Spaniels, knowing that the "actual creation of a true distinct breed" dependent upon gestation, can take decades if not centuries of breeding to create an animal that will always reproduce true, it was very easy for me to understand I needed to go to Europe and "do my homework"! When I began researching the breed and in relation, the Romany, the photographs in archives of these same horses dated back hundreds of years! After speaking with other clubs and associations in Europe, BSPA, Irish Cob Society, CHAPS, various Tinker Horse Associations, it became clear that in my opinion being dedicated to "the breed" meant working on our own here in the USA. We opened a serious breeding farm beginning in 1999 and have moved forward slowly and carefully ever since. We are dedicated to producing high quality cobs of the traditional type and working to promote ethical breeding practices and proper breed education here.

I am proud to be working with the Gypsy Cob Society of America.



Cheryl Lang,  
Director at Large

I saw my first Gypsy Horses pulling caravans filled with Rom families through the streets of Spain in

1974. The ponies were cute, but it was their incredibly patient - almost "grandmotherly" tolerance of the behavior of the kids climbing all over and around them that intrigued me. I knew that some day I would have one.

Life happens, and my horse dreams

were put on hold. I raised 2 beautiful daughters, and we raised and showed Collies. Our name is known internationally; we have sold Collies all over the US and have dogs in 2 other countries. My oldest daughter still shows dogs with me, my youngest pursued her passion for horses.

For many years I tried to get abroad to learn more about the little ponies - who even then, did not have a name of their own. Several trips to England over the course of a dozen or so years did not come to fruition for one reason or another.

Life changes, a wonderfully supportive new husband, kids moved on, and finally my trip to England looked possible. For almost 2 years I saved pennies. The day we arrived, foot and mouth disease broke out! All the farms were placed under quarantine, and we could only look from afar. There was a field filled with colorful ponies in Kent that we could see from the road. How frustrating it was not to be able to go and meet the family that lived there!

In the summer of 2002, Gordon and I went to Ireland. We visited many herds of "colored ponies" owned by travellers and came home with 2 fillies, one a solid black. People are still surprised to hear that they aren't just black and white!

We have recently moved to a small farm in northeast New Hampshire, another life long dream. Our new horse from Ireland, one of only a few mares to get a Premiere rate from the Irish Cob Society, arrived just in time to make the move with us.

Our goal is to maintain a small, herd, so that each horse can be interacted with and enjoyed daily. We hope to offer a few high quality foals for sale each year, and to be able to promote the amazing versatility, athleticism, and temperaments of this delightful breed.

I don't know who is happier at Aisling Farm - the Gypsy Horses, the Collies, or me and Gordon!



### YOUTH CORNER

Each newsletter will have a Youth Corner. We hope to have lots of fun things for you to do in each edition.

This newsletter we are introducing our Gypsy Cob Cartoon. He is a cute little fellow and just right for coloring and showing. But, he needs a name!

We would like you to send in a name for our new horse.

The deadline for entries is April 1st, 2004. You must have your entries postmarked by April 1, 2004. We can accept entries no later than April 5th, 2004.

Our little guy will be so happy when he gets a name! Thank you so much for participating in our contest.

Send your entries in on the entry form printed here.

OFFICIAL Name the Cartoon Horse ENTRY FORM

I want to name the cartoon horse \_\_\_\_\_

My Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Send your entry form to:  
entry must be postmarked by  
April 1, 2003

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Springtown, TX 76082

Look for an interview with Andrea Betteridge from the UK in the next issue of the newsletter. She shows Gypsy Cobs in the UK and works with the Gypsies to help get the Gypsy Cob registered in the English registry. Don't miss it!